

GARTH OGDEN: Good morning. My name is Garth Ogden. I'm a Sevier County Commissioner representing the population of about 20,000. We do support coal in our county 100 percent. Thank you for allowing me to make these comments today. We support the coal leasing program as it now exists. I looked at it right now and look at the way that it is, we've had a lot of concerns about the royalties, and I think that it's not broken, so why are we trying to fix something that's not broken? Sally Jewell wants to modernize the coal program to ensure that the taxpayers get a fair return from the coal lease program. I feel that everyone is getting a fair return across the U.S. 40 percent of the benefits to the U.S. is delivered because of coal. Other benefits that we enjoy is the inexpensive power that brings opportunities for us to create new businesses and more jobs, something every one of us is looking for across the United States. We're screaming for more jobs. The Federal Coal Program sustained revenues to the federal and state governments totaling about \$13.8 million since 2003. Keeping the coal in the ground taxpayers lose. I think we are getting a great return from our investment from our coal leasing as it is now. Coal in the U.S. is what oil is to Saudi Arabia. We will always need coal, oil, natural gas; and renewable is making its way into the future, but we'll always need to export and use coal in domestic use. The tax revenue that Sevier County receives is about 15 percent from the coal industry. Now, that's just a coal. That doesn't talk about the trucking. That doesn't talk about all the other little business we have, but it's been mentioned before that if the coal goes away and we lose that, our little county is going to shrivel up and blow away. All of our little businesses are gone. I hope you consider that when you look into the future. The moratorium should be avoided. The impact studies -- you don't need to shutdown the business in order to do a study. I oppose the moratorium on coal. I had a business, and I couldn't shut my business down to study it for three years. It would be devastating. I invite all of you to come down to rural Utah, take a tour of the coal mine, come down and see what rural Utah is like, see what kind of life we enjoy. Thank you.